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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

- 1956 -

ON THE

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., T.D.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Ans.



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Borough of Maidstone

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year ended December 31st 1956

*To, The Worshipful, the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Maidstone.*

MR MAYOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I have the Honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year ended December 31st 1956.

I am pleased to report that the health of the Borough has been good in the year under review. The death rate is again below that recorded for the whole country for the County Boroughs and Great Towns and for the 160 smaller Towns while the infantile death rate is still happily low. Of the notifiable diseases measles was the only one to show an incidence reaching three figures 101 cases being reported, a figure much below the 898 notified in 1955 and for the sixth consecutive year I have the satisfaction of reporting a complete absence of diphtheria. The maternal death rate is again shown as "Nil" and I trust that this may long continue.

The building of new houses both by the Borough Council and by private enterprise has made considerable progress during the year and further advance in the closing and demolition of unfit houses has been made but the demand for housing accommodation is still great. The clearance of areas of unfit property is a lengthy and complicated procedure and has to be kept in step with the provision of new housing for the displaced families while the waiting list of applicants for houses seems ever to maintain its length and insistence.

I am approaching the end of my service as your Medical Officer of Health and to the Council, to my professional colleagues in the district and to all your Officers, I should like to express my thanks for the help and kindness I have received over the past 27 years. For me, they have been happy years. I trust that my years of service have been of advantage to Maidstone and I can say, with the Eastern poet, that I am, -

"Pleased with my little corner of the earth,
Glad that I came, - not sorry to depart!"

I have the Honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,
Medical Officer of Health.



Health Department,
13, Tonbridge Road,
Maidstone.

28th September, 1957.

Health Committee, 1956.

CHAIRMAN. Councillor A T Wilson.

VICE-CHAIRMAN. Councillor H. Foreman.

MEMBERS. Aldermen Mrs. Relf and Clark, Councillors
Brittain Morling, Parker, Westover, Everest,
Harman Kelly.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE MAIDSTONE CORPORATION.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Jacob Gaffikin M.C., T.D., M.D.,
B Ch. B.A.O. D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W A N. Baker O.B.E., M.C.,
F.R.S.I. *Certificate, Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.* M.I.P.C.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Geoffrey Adams,
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

R A R. Key,
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

H. Moule,
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

John Arnold
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other
Foods.*

Brian Willis
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.

CLERKS. M O H Office

Mrs. L. Thurlow.

Sanitary Inspector's Office.

Mrs. Stangroom Mrs. Jones Miss B. Fowler.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Borough General Statistics.

Area:- 6,194 acres.

Population. - Census 1921-37,448. Census 1931-42,259.

Census 1952-54,206.

Estimated Resident Population, 1956:-

For calculation of Birth and Death Rates, etc. 55,500

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956) 15,929

Rateable Value:- £927,796

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:- £3,730

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	387	356	743)
Illegitimate.. ..	23	16	39) 782

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population -

	Crude	14.09
	Corrected	14.23
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales .. ..	.. ..	15.6
for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns .. ..	.. ..	15.6
for 160 Smaller Towns .. ..	.. ..	15.6

Stillbirths: - Male 14, Female 5. Total 19.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 23.65

Still birth rate per 1,000 population 0.34

for England & Wales 23.0

for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns 23.0

for 160 Smaller Towns 22.7

Deaths .. Male 306 Female 364 Total 670

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population -

	Crude	12.07
	Corrected	9.77
" " for England & Wales .. ..	.. ..	11.7
" " for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns .. ..	.. ..	11.6
" " for 160 Smaller Towns .. ..	.. ..	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal causes: (Headings 29 and 30 of the
the Registrar General's Short List):-

	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (Live and Still) births	
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion	Nil	Nil
No. 30	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:-		
All infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	.. ..	21.74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births .. ..	.. ..	18.84
Illegitimate " " " " " " .. ..	.. ..	76.92
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. ..	.. ..	93
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) .. ..	.. ..	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. ..	.. ..	2
" " Measles (all ages) .. ..	.. ..	Nil

In previous Reports I have made mention of the geological and climatic features of the Maidstone area and these have no small share in the health and prosperity of the Borough. In the past year the industries both those which are old - established and those of recent growth have been increasingly prosperous and agriculture in the surrounding parts of the County, for which Maidstone has been for centuries the marketing and supplying centre has enjoyed continued success. Maidstone is an increasingly active and growing town, happily too far from the metropolis to become a mere dormitory for London workers and any artificial or restrictive attempt to limit expansion is to be deprecated and likely to prove abortive.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The School Medical Service with school inspections and clinics the Maternity and Child Welfare Services and the Domiciliary Midwifery Service are now all administered by the Kent County Council and are controlled by the County Medical Officer. New School Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have been provided but it is possible that some of these responsibilities may be returned to the Borough Council or at least be delegated to the Local Authority by the County Council.

During 1956 the births notified in Maidstone were as follows.

Live births 782 - an increase of 68 over the number
in 1955

Still births 19 - and increase of 3 over the number
in 1955

HOSPITALS. These are administered by the Mid-Kent Hospital Management Committee and the S E Metropolitan Regional Board. The services of a consultant staff are available at the West Kent Hospital and the County Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital and use is made by patients from the Borough of the Preston Hall and Pembury Hospitals. Additional beds are in use at Linton Hospital and the Fant Lane Isolation Hospital is used for post operative cases from the West Kent Hospital as well as for infectious diseases for which admission is required.

The necessary nursing staff in all the hospitals has been difficult to obtain and there is a shortage of beds for the chronic sick and for the care of old folk needing hospital care and attention.

HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS. This service is administered by the County Council and is of great value in providing care for aged and disabled patients and thus relieving the pressure on available hospital beds. I would again pay tribute to the work of the Personal Service League which has continued to do valuable work and provide excellent co-operation with the official organisation in the care of the old and incapacitated.

TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST CLINIC This is now a part of the National Health Service and the Chest Physician now functioning as a consultant in diseases of the chest is the heir and successor of the Tuberculosis Officer of National Health Insurance days. There have been Press statements that tuberculosis has been conquered true it is that great advances have been made and that the heavy incidence in young adults has been reduced but the "Captain of the Hosts of Death" is not yet defeated and such statements are somewhat optimistic.

Later in this Report I give the figures relating to the investigation of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis and the results of the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in 1956.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS. For these handicapped members of the community efforts have been made in recent years to provide as much assistance and encouragement in the overcoming of their disabilities and modern medicine and surgery give new hope to cases which might formerly have been regarded as beyond improvement. In particular the Maidstone Branch of the National Spastics Association has aroused much local interest and support. I hope that like support may be accorded to the parallel organisation for the rehabilitation of those suffering from the after-effects of Polio-myelitis.

CARE OF THE OLDER POPULATION. One of the problems which has to be overcome in our social system as it exists today is the steadily increasing proportion of older members of the community. This is a problem which originates from the

success which has attended the work of the health services. Additional years have been added to the expectation of life but what use are these additional years if they are to be but years of tedious existence spent in weary waiting for the inevitable end. In my previous Report, I made mention of the success of the experiment by Messrs. Sharp & Ltd. in the employment of a number of the older members of the community in the packaging of confectionery. The value of this opportunity is not confined to the satisfaction of being able to earn some addition to the pensions but is of great benefit to those employed in allowing them to realise that they are still sharing in the work and activity of the community and are not merely a burden and a liability. The Maidstone Personal Service Society in May 1956 was able to open work rooms at the British Legion Village Hall where as a beginning 8 workers were employed. This number has been gradually increased to 20 and various forms of work, suitable to the capacities of elderly folk have been provided. Unfortunately the Hall is some distance from the Town and this involves the expense and fatigue of a bus ride but this has not deterred the workers and it is hoped that the number employed can be increased. A work-shop in the Borough would be an enormous advantage the generous help of the inhabitants is required for a project that will add much to the happiness of many in the evening of their days.

The work of a devoted band of members of the Personal Service Society has continued the provision of meals for old folk and with the increased cost of food and necessities this help to many whose Old Age pension cannot go beyond the provision of bare necessities is of enormous value and has the further advantage of lessening the demand for institutional accommodation and permitting the old folk to remain in their own surroundings amid their own possessions and friends.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY. The Maidstone Water Company supplies the Borough of Maidstone and parts of the surrounding Rural Districts. The demand for water both for domestic and commercial use is steadily increasing. Nearly 99% of the population of the area served by the Company has a piped

water supply available. The new Pumping Station at Hocker's Lane and the new reservoir at Detling came into use in 1956 and the Company has plans for obtaining an increased supply for the benefit of our expanding industry and growing population. The greatest care is taken to ensure the purity of the water supplied by the Company. At Boxley and at Hocker's Lane, sterilisation of the water is effected by the use of ozone, instead of the more usual chlorine, which has advantages in such processes as the preservation of fruit and is imperceptible to taste. Chemical analysis and bacteriological examinations of samples of the water are carried out monthly, some by the Company's own analysts and some at the Public Health Laboratories which are now established at Preston Hall. The results of the examinations are consistently satisfactory. In the Table following, I give the average of the results of the regular chemical analyses of the water during the year setting out the results from the different sources of supply. The water, though hard, is of excellent quality and there is not evidence of plumbo-solvent action.

	Boarley Standpipe	Cossington Springs	Forstal Well	Farleigh Engine House	Cossington Well	Boxley Well	Boxley Borehole	Hockers Lane Borehole
Parts per 100 000								
Total Solid Residue ..	40.16	35.42	57.66	52.28	18.5	30.77	25.61	36.88
Chlorine ..	2.27	2.13	4.21	3.26	1.9	1.935	2.05	3.33
Nitrogen (Nitrates) ..	.307	.33	.206	.321	.014	.018	.034	.33
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonia Saline ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonia Albuminoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxygen Absorbed ($\frac{1}{4}$ hr. at 27°C) ..	.006	.006	.008	.007	.007	.007	.006	.008
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C) ..	.017	.012	.013	.012	.012	.012	.010	.017
Total Hardness ..	28.15	24.78	41.73	33.25	13.34	24.56	13.8	21.93

In Maidstone, there are still a few groups of houses which have their supply of water from the mains taken from stand-pipes and where the water is not piped into the houses, but these are in the areas which are ripe for demolition and with the elimination of areas of sub-standard housing - (some members of the Council are, I know, allergic to the use of the expression, "Slum Clearance") by means of representation for clearance areas or for demolition orders on individual unfit houses, this defect in the provision of water supplies in the Borough will be removed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SWIMMING BATH WATER. The water in the Corporation Baths undergoes a process of constant change filtration and purification during the period of use of the Baths and the purity of the water is secured by chlorination. Samples of the water from both the Large and Small Swimming Pools are taken monthly for laboratory examination and the results have been uniformly satisfactory. During 1956 48 samples of the water were examined and in no case was an unsatisfactory report received. The Swimming Baths are old and the establishment of a new Swimming Bath would be an advantage to the Borough which I hope will be secured in the future, but of the purity of the water in the present Baths, there can be no doubt. Complaints that foot infections have been acquired at the Baths are not unknown but these complaints lack any proof and I can assure the Council that every care has been taken to remove any material in the equipment of the Baths which might serve to harbour such infecting organisms. There are many more probable sources of these infections than our Baths, though the blame is too often laid there without justification.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. The Maidstone Borough Cemetery on the Sutton Road still provides adequate space for burial, though the extension of building in the town has resulted in the Cemetery being almost surrounded by houses. Cremation is becoming much more widely used and this area is served by the Kent County Crematorium at Charing. This is a considerable distance from Maidstone and is hardly able to cope with the present demand. There have been proposals for a Crematorium to be established jointly by the Local Authorities

in the area and I urge that such additional provision is necessary and very desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The Borough sewage disposal works at Aylesford which have been in operation for very many years have now reached the point where their capacity is being overstrained and expansion and enlargement of the sewage disposal works is very necessary. This will be the more urgent if the proposal to take sewage from parts of the adjacent Rural Districts is to be carried into effect, but this is a desirable piece of co-operation between the authorities, for the multiplication of smaller disposal works, with the resultant difficulties in management and maintenance, is an obviously wasteful and undesirable policy. Sewage can be processed and converted into useful fertiliser and this is already being done by some of the larger Authorities where the quantities to be dealt with make it a reasonably profitable proposition for the smaller Local Authorities the only practical solution is to look beyond their own boundaries and co-operate with their neighbours in a joint effort to solve the problem.

Some of the sewers in Maidstone have been in urgent need of renewal and re-construction and deficiencies in the sewer system in parts of the town have existed for years. During 1956 a large scheme of reconstruction was undertaken in the Mill Street and High Street area and on the East side of the river including Fairmeadow and Waterside.

The following lengths of sewer have been laid in connection with new building and extension of the Borough area particularly in the Sutton Road district. The next problem to be overcome is the expansion of the disposal works necessary to deal with the increased flow.

Soil Sewer 4 ⁱⁿ diameter	..	..	.	2247 yards
" " 6 ⁱⁿ " "	.	..	..	1735 "
" " 9 ⁱⁿ " "	..	..	..	40 "
Total				4022 "
Surface water sewer 6 ⁱⁿ diameter	.			93 "
Total				93 "

RIVERS AND STREAMS. I am glad to report that there has been a very great improvement in the river Medway in the matter of pollution by trade wastes. The industrial firms along the banks of the Medway have made great efforts to prevent this pollution and in particular the paper mills have installed elaborate filtration plant to prevent the passing of paper pulp into the river with a success which has been certainly beneficial to the Medway and I hope will prove profitable to themselves. But the Medway is still a polluted river, though improvements have been secured. This is particularly true of the tidal part of the Medway, below Maidstone Lock and some of this pollution is from the Maidstone Borough Sewage Disposal works which are already overloaded. There has been recent expression of the desire to see more use made of Britain's waterways, to ease the heavy traffic by rail and road. Maidstone really owed its beginning to the existence of the river Medway and this river, carefully guarded and maintained can yet be a factor in the town's expansion and prosperity. The tributaries of the Medway which flow through the Town the Len stream and the stream which passes down the Loose valley to Tovil are also polluted and can be a source of danger and I hope that steps will be taken to cleanse these streams and protect them from further contamination.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Most of the houses in the Borough have water closets which are connected with the sewer system but there are a comparatively small number of houses where the closets discharge into cesspits. However efficient a cesspit may be it remains a means for the accumulation of sewage and however carefully the emptying of such a cesspit is carried out it is unpleasant and possibly offensive process. In an urban area the existence of cesspits is to be deplored and I should hope that town planning will limit the number of houses with such provision. A few earth closets still remain and in some dwellings pail closets are still in use but these have been reduced in number in recent years and should eventually disappear from the Borough area.

The number of houses having closet accommodation of various types is shown below -

Properties with W.C.'s discharging into the sewer system	15,791
Properties with W.C.'s discharging into cesspits	331
Properties with earth closets or privy middens	18
Properties with pail closets	66

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The Chief Public Health Inspector has furnished me with the following details of the work done during the year set out in the Tables which follow.

Annual Report, 1956.

Bakehouse inspections	19
Chimneys repaired	23
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided	4
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	17
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	43
Common Lodging House inspections	48
Coppers repaired	22
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	1, 181
" choked and cleansed	1, 076
" reconstructed	9
" tested with smoke	51
" tested with water	32
" inspection chambers provided	16
" inspection chambers airtight covers provided	2
" stoneware pipes laid, feet	409
" iron pipes laid, feet	-
" trapped from sewer and ventilated	1
Dustbins provided	14
Factory, workplaces and outworkers' premises inspected	331
Fresh air inlets provided	-
Grates renewed or repaired	29
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars	-
" floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	19
" chuting or guttering repaired or renewed	142
" roofs repaired	812
" rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed	-
" and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered	284
" walls made dry by insertion of damp course or	-
" other method	39
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	57
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	4, 527
Re-inspections	8, 429
Mortar joints to brickwork repaired	41
Miscellaneous defects remedied	5
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	4
Poultry or animals removed	1
Public Houses inspected	86
Restaurants and Cafes inspected	36
Schools inspected	3
Sink or other wastepipes removed disconnected or trapped	5
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	14
Stairs repaired	27
Stoneware gullies provided	14
Strainers provided to gullies	2
W.C.s. Walls and ceilings repaired	91
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired	131
" new pans and traps provided	21
" structural defects remedied	37
" seats	12
Water supplies provided or repaired	14
Window frames repaired	142
Verminous rooms cleansed	104
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with	-
" houses	4
Preliminary Notices served	272
Statutory Notices served	53

(g) Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(1) - INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power	266	4	-
Factories without Mechanical Power	45	-	-
Other premises	11	-	-
Total	322	4	-

2 - DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H M Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Factories Act 1937 and the Public Health Act 1936				
Want of Cleanliness ..	2	2	-	-
Want of Ventilation ..	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-
Want of Drainage Floors	-	-	-	-
Other Nuisances ..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary (Insufficient Accommo- (Unsuitable or Defects	1	1	-	-
dation (Not Separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Offences under the Factories Act, 1937				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s.54)	-	-	-	-
Other Offences ..	-	-	-	-
(Excluding Offences relating to the outwork and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer or Powers Order 1921).				
Total	4	4	-	-

(g) Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws.

These are as follows -

Common Lodging Houses ..	4
Slaughter Houses ..	2
Houses let in Lodgings ..	6
Dairies	3

Housing.

During 1956, the number of new houses erected in the Borough was 418. Of these 185 houses were erected by the Local Authority and 233 houses were provided by private enterprise.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I. - Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,312
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	1,529
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-section (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	-
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	-
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	325
II. - Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	272
III. - Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A. - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners	34
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	2
B. - PROCEEDING UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17

Housing Statistics - (continued)

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
(a) by owners	17
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-
C. - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Order were made ..	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	12
D. - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 AND SECTION 3 (1) OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1949	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	-
E. - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 10 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953	
(1) Closing orders made	-
IV. - Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Indeterminable	-
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	-
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	-
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	21
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	23
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	93
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	-
V. - Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954-	
Certificates applied for	1
Number granted	4

Though the building of new houses in Maidstone has been pursued with vigour in every year since the war, there is still a long and ever-renewed waiting list and I have knowledge of cases of overcrowding and family difficulties which are directly the result of young married folk being unable to obtain a home. The whole national structure will be shaken if the housing shortage results in deliberate refusal of young people to start on the adventure of raising a family and this is what is happening in far too many cases. There used to be an advertisement which said that every girl sees a home through her engagement ring: nowadays that ring too frequently encircles the wrong end of a telescope.

Verminous Dwellings

During the year 1956, the following work in the eradication of bugs and other vermin in houses was carried out:-

(a) Council Houses found to be infested	..	3
(b) Other Houses found to be infested	..	26
Council Houses disinfested:-		
(a) By gassing	.. .. .	-
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides	.. .. .	3
Other Houses disinfested:-		
(a) By gassing	.. .. .	-
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides	.. .. .	26
Verminous households fumigated before removal to a Council House or during transfer to another Council house	.. .. .	15
Council Houses inspected and found clean	..	178
Other Houses inspected and found clean	..	196

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The supervision of food, of all kinds and with many sources of origin, is one of the most important functions of the Health Departments of every country and every local authority. One of the most important sides of the work of the United Nations and an activity which has perhaps been more successful than any of the other departments of that much criticised body, is the World Health Organisation and the control and safeguarding of food stuffs at all stages is an essential factor, for in the supervision of food more than in any other context, it is true that "Eternal vigilance is the price of safety". The food of this country comes from all parts of the earth and in Maidstone in the past year I have had problems connected with sugar from the West Indies, beans from Abyssinia and egg albumin from China, to give but a selection of the places which supply the British housewife.

Of the meat killed in the Borough for human consumption it has been possible to ensure that 100% is subject to inspection, but with our present staff this is only secured by the working of some overtime and would not be possible if the pre-war system by which slaughtering was carried on in a number of small privately owned slaughter-houses still existed. Slaughtering in Maidstone is now concentrated in two slaughter-houses, owned and managed by the Corporation. These are old and unsatisfactory, badly situated and deficient in space and equipment and I urge that the scheme for the provision of a municipal abattoir which has been under consideration for a long time without result is a pressing necessity for Maidstone.

The number of carcasses inspected and the amount condemned in 1956 are as follows:-

1956	Cattle including cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..) Number inspected)	2068	1444	2568	7038	-
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	12	11	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	474	12	279	1409	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	21.1%	1.0%	11.3%	20.2%	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	12	-	-	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	272	4	4	134	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.6%	0.3%	-	1.9%	-
CYSTICERCOSIS.					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

During 1956 foods of various descriptions, in the following quantities were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food which in every case was surrendered, included the following:-

1956.

Ham, tinned - 2 cwts, 1 qrs., 15 lbs.					
Milk, tinned	..	..	..	..	1,241 tins
Peas, tinned	..	..	..	..	1,172 tins
Fruit, tinned	..	..	..	..	6,956 tins
Vegetables, tinned	..	..	..	..	3,217 tins
Soup, tinned	..	..	..	..	976 tins
Meat, tinned - 2 tons, 13 cwts., 1 qrs., 17 lbs.					
Fish and Fish Paste	..	..	..	..	871 tins
Fish, fresh	..	..	..	..	73 stones
Beans, tinned	..	..	..	..	815 tins
Cheese	..	..	..	..	241 lbs.
Eggs	..	..	..	..	914
Jam	..	..	..	..	131 jars and tins
Sweetmeats	..	..	..	..	4 lbs. 3 ozs.
Fresh and Dried Fruit	..	..	..	..	314 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	1 ton. 2 cwts. 4 lbs.
Puddings, tinned	..	..	..	..	57
Pies	..	..	..	..	18
Cakes	..	..	..	..	22
Beverages	..	..	..	..	16 bottles
Sausages..	..	..	..	..	446 lbs.
Cereals	..	..	..	..	49 lbs.
Biscuits..	..	..	..	..	8 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS, 1956. During the year the following samples of Food and Drugs were taken for analysis and the results are recorded below:-

Article	Number of Samples Obtained	Number Genuine
New Milk	75	74
School Milk.. .. .	19	17
Monthly New Milk for M.A.F.F. ..	120	117
Sweetmeats	12	12
Artificial colouring	1	1
Dried fruit.. .. .	2	2
Pork Sausage	3	3
Beef Sausage	3	3
Aspirin tablets	3	3
Castor oil	1	1
Vaseline	1	1
Curry powder	1	1
Ground nutmegs	1	1
Pepper	4	4
Cloves	1	1
Mixed spice.. .. .	1	1
Ground ginger	1	1
Ground cinnamon	1	1
Pickling spice	1	1
Processed peas	1	1
Jelly crystals	2	2
Flour	1	1
Cooking fat.. .. .	1	1
Butter	2	2
Margarine	1	1
Lard	1	1
Canned ham	1	-
Stewed steak	1	-
Dripping	1	-
Cascara sagrada tablets	1	1
Raising powder	2	2
Mustard	1	1
Custard powder	1	1
Blancmange powder	1	1
Soup powder	1	1
Meat paste	1	1
Sardines	1	1
Steak Pudding	1	1
Saccharin tablets	1	1
Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment	1	1
Chillies	1	1
Mace	1	1
	277	268

Clean Food

In this small and populous island the feeding of the community has grown to be a complicated organisation, and every part of the world is now numbered among the sources whence the British larder is supplied. New methods of preservation, canning and refrigeration have come into use and have brought new dangers and hazards which have to be overcome. Adequate safeguards for the protection of the consumer are necessary and these have been embodied in the Food Hygiene Regulations. The methods of handling food in transport and preparation in the past have been far from satisfactory and the change in the habits of the community with the more frequent use of cafes, restaurants and canteens, calls for detailed supervision of the food supply offered to the public at every stage. The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 should result in an improvement in the standard of hygiene in all premises where food is handled, prepared or sold but the enforcement of these Regulations is only made possible by regular and meticulous inspection constantly repeated and supported where necessary by action by the local health authority. For this work an adequate staff is essential and without an efficient and sufficient inspectorate, the results desired cannot be obtained. The food shops in Maidstone have shown many improvements in the past year in the protection of food exposed for sale. In particular, the fish shops and grocery stores have gone a long way in the protection of food-stuffs, but the habits of the customers show that the public conscience still needs to be awakened. For example it is now an offence for a food retailer to smoke while selling food stuffs. In Denmark and Germany I discovered that it is also an offence for the customer to smoke while making purchases in a food shop but in England this is still common and it seems quite illogical that one participant in the transaction should be prohibited from smoking while the other is free to do as he or she wishes.

Care in the handling and storage of food in the home is very necessary and my experience has been that many cases of food poisoning originate in household kitchens and pantries and as a result of carelessness or ignorance. I would urge that the teaching of domestic science in the schools should be particularly directed to the need for care and cleanliness.

From the inadequacy of kitchen and food-storage space to be found in many modern houses, one is forced to conclude that the percentage of bachelors amongst architects is high!

During 1956, there were no notifications of food poisoning which is very satisfactory, but I should like to be certain that, though there were no cases sufficiently severe to warrant calling-in the family Doctor, there was no food poisoning of any kind or degree. Nothing less than 100% success in the prevention of food poisoning should be the aim of every health authority.

Clean Food Campaign

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE BOROUGH					652
<i>Class</i>					<i>Number</i>
Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	..	45
Hotels	..	..	..	..	12
School Canteens	..	..	..	..	19
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	85
Food Shops -					
Butchers	..	..	..	..	44
Fruit and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	44
Bakers	..	..	..	..	14
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	14
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	10
Grocers and Provision Merchants	..	..	..	..	88
Others	..	..	..	..	35
2. FOOD PREMISES BY TYPE REGISTERED WITH THE LOCAL					
AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938,					
LOCAL BYELAWS AND THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949,					
Ice-cream manufacturers	..	..	..	..	3
Ice-cream sellers..	..	..	(52% pre-packed)	..	165
Sausage manufacturers	..	..	..	..	23
Margarine	..	..	Margarine-cheese and Milk-blended	..	
Butter (Wholesale Dealers)	..	..	..	..	11
Artificial cream dealers	..	..	..	..	2
Milk Distributors	..	..	(Sterilised Milk - 71)	..	75
Dairies	..	..	..	..	3
3. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES					927
4. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY.					

Continual advice and instruction is given by Inspectors during their visits to premises and local exhibitions play their part by affording opportunities to display clean food posters and instructional material and displays. Talks and lectures to local bodies and associations and advertising in the press help to keep this important matter in the public mind.

5. METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

The majority of condemned food is incinerated in the Borough's Refuse Destructor at Tovil. In some cases where the food is recoverable it is returned for re-processing or sent to adjacent animal food manufacturers for their use. The usual precautions are taken in these cases to ensure that the condemned food cannot re-appear for sale for human consumption. Some condemned meat is used in the local Zoo, whilst the majority is sent for processing as glue and fertiliser.

6. EXAMINATION OF SPECIAL STOCKS.

No special stocks worthy of mention have been received in the Borough during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases

I give below in tabular form, details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which occurred in the Borough during 1956.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Chicken Pox	9	"	"
Scarlet Fever.. ..	33	"	"
Diphtheria	Nil	"	"
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	2	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	"	"
Pneumonia	36	"	37
Food Poisoning ..	Nil	"	"
Typhoid Fever ..	Nil	"	"
Measles	101	1	"
Whooping Cough ..	15	"	"
Dysentery	Nil	"	"
Erysipelas	2	"	"
Acute Polio-myelitis..	1	1	"
Meningococcal Infection	Nil	"	1
Totals	199	4	38

Distribution of Infectious Disease Incidence, 1956.

The following Table gives an analysis of the notifications of Infectious Disease, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred.

	South	High Street	Stone Street	King Street	North	Heath	Bridge	Shepway	Total
Scarlet Fever	4	2	-	5	2	7	-	13	33
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Polio-myelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Pneumonia	3	2	-	6	12	6	2	5	36
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Whooping Cough	-	4	-	2	6	3	-	-	15
Chicken-pox	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	9
Measles	16	12	-	15	10	5	2	41	101
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Totals	27	20	-	28	32	24	5	63	199

SCARLET FEVER. 33 notifications of this disease were received during the year. Scarlet Fever appears to have changed its character and severity in the past few years: when I first came to Maidstone, this infection was one of the major problems and a whole ward of the Isolation Hospital was devoted to cases of this condition, which caused considerable disability with some fatalities. Now it can be regarded as one of the milder infections: of these 33 cases, none required admission to hospital and there were no deaths, while the complications and sequelae which were formerly to be dreaded have disappeared with the resources of modern treatment.

ACUTE POLIO MYELITIS AND POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS. In 1956, one case of Polio-myelitis was admitted to hospital and happily, the patient recovered. In 1956, the offer of immunisation against Polio-myelitis was made to children in the age-groups considered to be most at risk but the supply of vaccine did not materialise before the end of the year. Every precaution has to be taken and is taken, to ensure the safety of the vaccine to be used, and high hopes are entertained of the results of its use, but much research will be needed to advance our knowledge and to secure that complete protection is obtained with safety and absence of undesirable reactions. In this research work, the National Fund for Polio Research is playing a very important part and I am glad that, under the Chairmanship of T W The Mayor for 1956, a local fund to further this work has been opened and is meeting with success and support. The immunising agents used for protection against Diphtheria took much time and research to bring to complete success: it should be possible to secure a like outcome of the prolonged and patient research now being undertaken to provide protection against Polio and financial support for this work must be forthcoming.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. Two cases were notified and both were admitted to hospital but it must be remembered that notification is now required in any case in which there is a rise of temperature after confinement and the modern anti-biotics have shorn the puerperal fevers of much of their terrors. I am glad to report for another year that the deaths recorded under the heading "Child-birth, pregnancy and abortion" were "Nil" and I hope that this may long be continued.

ENTERIC GROUP OF FEVERS. No cases of fevers of this group were notified during 1956.

MEASLES. This is an infection which appears to show its maximum incidence in cycles which recur as the proportion of susceptible children in the child population rises, and while in 1954, the incidence in Maidstone was low and in 1955, there was a sharp rise with the total of notifications rising to 898, in 1956 there was a distinct fall, only 101 cases being reported. The disease was of mild type and only one required admission to hospital.

WHOOPIING-COUGH. There is a feeling amongst many people that whooping-cough is in some way an inevitable happening of childhood, but there is no doubt that it is a cause of much distress and suffering to the small patients and of anxiety to the parents. While the immunisation at present available does not give complete protection, in those who succumb after immunisation the attacks are of less severity and in my view, immunisation against whooping-cough can be profitably combined with the injections for protection against diphtheria, as is advocated by the laboratories producing some of the immunising material for the latter disease, and a recent development is to combine protection against tetanus with the injections for the other two infections.

DIPHTHERIA. Looking back over the years in which I have served as your Medical Officer of Health, one of the great reasons for satisfaction is that we have been able to conquer diphtheria. Maidstone was hardly ever free from diphtheria - in the years from 1920 to 1939, the average number of cases was 37 per annum - and since the introduction of diphtheria immunisation in 1936, - which I may say was then described in the Health Committee as "One of the Doctor's fads", - there has been a steady fall in the incidence of this disease, until the last case notified was in 1950 - and since 1951 there has not been a single case in the Borough. The danger now is that parents may become apathetic and that the necessary immunisation may be neglected until the presence of a considerable proportion of unprotected children among the community may allow a reappearance of this disease. It is essential that the percentage of protected individuals be maintained and it is the plain duty of all parents to ensure that their children are immunised before their first birthday and that adequate re-inforcing injections are given at intervals. Diphtheria is now a rare disease in this country, - I know of one medical school where the students were told by the superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital that there was not one case which they could be shown, - and it is in the power of the community to ensure that it remains a rarity.

Diphtheria immunisation was introduced in Maidstone by the Borough Health Committee but it is now the responsibility of the County Council. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with the following Tables showing the figures for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination against Small-pox for the Borough.

SMALL-POX. This disease has not appeared in the Borough for many years but recent happenings have shown that with the speed of modern travel, it is easy for small-pox to be introduced into this country from places overseas where it is still endemic and I would urge that vaccination in childhood should be the rule. I find many cases in which vaccination is required before proceeding overseas and primary vaccination in adult life is attended by greater risk and produces greater discomfort than re-vaccination of those who have been vaccinated in infancy or childhood.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Borough of Maidstone who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

A. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations	42	319	54	17	14	10	51	18	18	11	-	-	-	-	-	554
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	1	13	175	149	43	198	462	57	5	1	-	-	1104

B. VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	279	160	11	3	3	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	19	484
Re-Vaccination	-	2	1	1	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	30	45

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1956.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December 1956 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952 - 1956	147	288	482	442	704	982	615	461	437	542	482	439	415	354	42	6832
1951 or earlier	342	256	238	236	149	17	50	200	236	32	-	-	-	-	-	1756

Malignant Disease.

The two short Tables set out below show in (i) the number of deaths from malignant disease in the Borough of Maidstone for the past eight years, and in (ii) the age-groups of deaths from this cause during 1956. A vast amount of research into the origin and cause of cancer is being done and our knowledge is being increased, though the solution of this problem is still to find. Early diagnosis and treatment offer the best hope of success but in too many cases, advice and treatment is sought too late for successful operation.

Table (i)

The number of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone in each of the past 8 years is as under

1949	..	..	..	..	101
1950	..	..	..	..	98
1951	..	..	..	..	95
1952	..	..	..	..	106
1953	..	..	..	..	82
1954	..	..	..	..	98
1955	..	..	..	..	107
1956	..	..	..	..	93

Table (ii)

Deaths from Cancer during 1956 under age groups.

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0-1	..	..
2-5	..	..
6-15	..	..
16-25	..	..
26-35	..	..
36-45	3	1
46-55	7	13
56-65	11	4
66 and over	30	24
Totals	51	42

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the
year Nil
- (ii) Number of cases in which -
- (a) Vision lost.
 - (b) Vision impaired
 - (c) Treatment continuing at end of year

Tuberculosis

Statistics for 1956.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
16-25	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
26-35	3	5	1	-	-	2	-	-
36-45	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
46-55	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
56-65	2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
66 & over	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	18	16	2	1	1	5	-	-

One death from Tuberculosis which had not been notified.

The Chest Clinic which serves the area for which I am Medical Officer of Health is at Foster Street Maidstone. This Clinic is equipped for the investigation of chest conditions, with facilities for radiographic examinations and full laboratory aid is also available. The Chest Physician in charge is Dr. D. L. Pugh and close co-operation between the Chest Clinic and the Health Departments of the four Authorities has continued during the year.

Dr. Pugh has kindly furnished me with details of the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis which were examined during the year and the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis. This investigation of contacts of known cases is one of the most valuable procedures in the detection of cases which might otherwise be missed and provides vital information on the origin and spread of infection. The figures quoted below relate to the investigations made in the area served by the Chest Clinic which coincides with the area of the four Authorities Maidstone Borough, Maidstone R.D., Hollingbourn R.D. and Malling R.D.

(a) Number of contacts, seen during 1956, of newly notified cases of tuberculosis	206
(b) Number of contacts examined during 1956, of cases notified prior to 1956	299
(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	1
(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis	4

MASS RADIOGRAPHY. During 1956, a survey by the Mass Radiography Units 7B and 7F was carried out in the area. The last previous survey was made in 1953 and on this occasion six public centres were established as against one in the 1953 survey. Surveys were also carried out at various industrial establishments, and the experiment of having additional centres at which the public could attend has been fully justified. The numbers attending from the general public showed an increase of 3,744 males and 3,152 females over the numbers in the 1953 survey: the numbers for the industrial surveys showed a decrease of 337 males and 1,560 females the actual increase over 1953, being thus 5,099.

This is an encouraging result and justifies the establishment of the additional public centres and the numbers found to have attended the Mass Radiography Service for the first time also indicates the interest which has been aroused among the general public the percentage being 39.5% as regards the general public and 40.02 as regards the industrial survey the overall percentage being 39.6%. Attached is a Table showing the numbers examined at the public centres in the industrial surveys made at various works and the surveys at schools with the numbers and percentages X-rayed for the first time and also the numbers and percentages recalled for further investigation.

Centres	Numbers Examined		Total	No. x-rayed for first time	% No. x-rayed to number examined	% total number x-rayed for first time to total number examined	No. of persons recalled for second film	% No. of persons recalled for second time to numbers examined	% of No. of persons recalled for second time to total numbers examined
	Male	Female							
A. <u>General Public</u>									
1. Drill Hall Union Street	3747	4657	8404	3237	38.5		491	5.8	
2. Drill Hall Tovil	161	41	202	40	19.8		-	-	
3. Drill Hall Ditton	364	434	798	401	50.2		20	2.5	
4. Drill Hall Astley House	840	325	1165	248	21.2		-	-	
5. Shepway	404	613	1017	513	50.4		11	1.0	
6. Fant Land Hospital	342	583	925	505	54.5		71	7.6	
TOTALS	5858 (2114)	6653 (3501)	12511 (5615)	4944					
B. <u>Industrial and other surveys</u>									
	4280 (4617)	2051 (3511)	6331 (8128)	2534	40.02		138	2.1	
TOTALS			18842	7478	-	39.6	731	1.01	3.8
C. <u>Schools</u>			5118	-	-	-	52	-	-

Figures in bracks indicate numbers attending during previous survey in 1953.

TABLE I

1956

Causes of death.		M.	F.
All Causes		306	364
1	Tuberculosis respiratory ..	1	5
2	Tuberculosis other ..	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease ..	-	1
4	Diphtheria ..	-	-
5	Whooping Cough ..	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections ..	-	1
7	Acute poliomyelitis ..	-	-
8	Measles ..	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10	Malignant neoplasm stomach ..	8	6
11	Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus..	8	4
12	Malignant neoplasm breast ..	-	11
13	Malignant neoplasm uterus ..	-	6
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	15
15	Leukaemia aleukaemia..	2	2
16	Diabetes ..	1	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system..	33	54
18	Coronary disease angina ..	50	35
19	Hypertension with heart disease ..	6	11
20	Other heart disease ..	55	102
21	Other circulatory disease ..	13	16
22	Influenza ..	1	2
23	Pneumonia ..	19	18
24	Bronchitis ..	25	17
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	6	2
27	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea..	-	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	4	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	3	-
30	Pregnancy childbirth abortion ..	-	-
31	Congenital malformations ..	2	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	32
33	Motor vehicle accidents ..	3	2
34	All other accidents ..	8	8
35	Suicide ..	7	4
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	-	-

TABLE II

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under
Age Groups, 1956.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total (All Ages)
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	29	1	-	-	33
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pneumonia	2	3	5	5	-	-	21	36
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Whooping Cough	1	4	2	8	-	-	-	15
Chicken Pox	-	2	2	2	1	1	1	9
Measles	5	20	27	47	1	-	1	101
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
TOTALS	8	30	38	91	3	4	25	199

TABLE III

Analysis of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups 1956.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Whooping Cough ..	1						1					1	1
Meningococcal Infection ..				1			1		1				1
Diphtheria ..				1			1						1
Puerperal Sepsis..			1				1						1
Other Puerperal Diseases ..		1	1				1		1				3
Paratyphoid Fever		1	1				1						3
Pneumonia ..	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	2	10	24	37
Polio-myelitis ..		1	1	1			1	1	1				5
Totals ..	1	2	2	2		2	3	2	1	2	10	24	38

TABLE IV

Deaths

Deaths apportioned to the Wards of the Borough

Month	High Street	King Street	North Ward	South Ward	Bridge Ward	Heath Ward	Shep-way	Totals
January	10	7	6	3	6	16	6	54
February	13	9	11	4	9	32	2	80
March	7	4	12	5	12	34	6	80
April	7	9	14	7	7	17	6	67
May	10	7	6	3	3	14	5	48
June	3	5	1	7	4	16	4	40
July	8	7	1	4	4	17	5	46
August	7	4	6	10	5	14	4	50
September	4	5	2	5	8	13	2	39
October	8	8	5	4	5	21	3	54
November	8	9	4	5	6	20	3	55
December	7	5	7	9	3	23	3	57
Totals	92	79	75	66	72	237	49	670

TABLE V

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality in the
year 1956.

	Rate per 1,000 popula- tion		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	Pneumonia	Total Deaths under one year		
England and Wales	15.6	23.0	11.7	.	0.12	.	.	0.06	.	.	0.52	23.8		
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	15.6	23.0	11.6	.	0.14	.	.	0.04	.	.	0.57	24.0		
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tion 25,000 or 50,000 at 1951 Census)	15.6	22.7	11.6	.	0.11	.	.	0.05	.	.	0.45	24.2		
London Administra- tive County	15.9	20.2	11.7	.	0.14	.	.	0.04	.	.	0.67	21.4		
Maidstone Borough	14.23	0.34	9.77	.	0.18	.	.	0.05	.	.	0.67	21.74		

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Cause	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1 000 (Live and Still) Births
Maternal causes	402	0.56

Maidstone Borough

	Puerperal Infections	Others	Total
Per 1 000 Total Births	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE VI

Infant Mortality 1956 Nett Deaths from stated
causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	5	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Enteritis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4
Congenital Malformation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Atelectasis	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Uraemia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Accidental Death	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Causes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronchiolitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS	9	2	1	1	12	3	1	1	1	17

Nett Live Births in the Year (Legitimate .. 743
(Illegitimate.. 39

Nett Deaths in the Year (Legitimate .. 14
(Illegitimate.. 3

TABLE VII

Meteorology

Month	Average Barometer	Average Thermo- meter (Max.)	Average Thermo- meter (Min.)	Rainfall	No. of days on which .01 fell
January	29.60	45	32	4.22	21
February	30.10	37	25	1.33	19
March	29.70	52	36	.61	11
April	29.72	55	36	1.09	11
May	29.76	70	45	.41	4
June	29.61	69	49	2.33	18
July	29.45	76	56	3.64	16
August	29.38	70	51	2.34	21
September.. ..	29.23	69	51	2.36	13
October	29.83	58	43	1.45	14
November	29.51	39	37	.83	11
December	29.70	47	40	2.73	19
Average and Total for the year	29.59	57	42	23.34	148

TABLE VIII

Record of Sunshine During 1956.

Month				Hours	Minutes
January	..	..	..	10	-
February	..	..	..	34	-
March	..	..	..	3	36
April	..	..	..	No Record	
May	..	..	..	No Record	
June	..	..	..	No Record	
July	..	..	..	No Record	
August	..	..	..	125	48
September	..	..	..	140	06
October	..	..	..	82	06
November	..	..	..	21	42
December	..	..	..	4	-
Totals				421	18

TABLE IX
Relative Proportion of Wind During 1956

Month	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ..	1	3	6	9	-	10	-	2
February ..	8	6	6	1	3	3	1	1
March ..	2	-	5	8	8	5	-	3
April ..	6	5	3	3	3	8	1	1
May ..	2	1	4	2	2	15	-	5
June ..	2	-	8	4	1	8	-	7
July ..	1	-	2	3	2	18	-	5
August ..	2	1	1	2	1	19	-	5
September..	-	4	2	10	-	13	-	1
October ..	1	1	7	3	-	15	-	4
November ..	3	1	6	8	1	2	-	9
December ..	4	1	2	2	1	20	-	1
Totals..	32	23	52	55	22	136	2	44

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

General Summary

Population (Estimated 1956)	55,500
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	8,472
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956)	
according to Rate Books	15,929
Average Number of persons per house (1921) ..	4.6
Average Number of persons per house (1956) ..	3.5
Area	6,194 acres
Density	8,960 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate .. per 1,000 population	14.23
Annual Death Rate .. " " "	9.77
Phthisis Death Rate .. " " "	.18
Cancer Death Rate .. " " "	1.7
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	21.74
Live Births Males 410 Females 372	782
Deaths Males 306 Females 364	670
Excess of Births over Deaths	112

ELEVATION. - The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

